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NEWS FOR KIDS

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story of the week

GUARDING HISTORY

What is it like at a presidential library?

By KELLY WATTON
For News for Kids

You know how a library works — you go in, take a book off the shelf and check it out, right? Not always. The Jimmy Carter Library and Museum has more than 27 million pages of documents, 1 million feet of film and 600,000 photos.

But you can't go in and wander among the shelves. You can't even check out the materials!

Presidential libraries hold the records from a person's time running the country. You'll even find documents that were once top secret.

Because the records are so special and can't be replaced, they're kept in special rooms. The temperature is controlled so the papers don't get moldy or fall apart.

Oct. 1-9 is Georgia Archives Week, which is a great time to take a look at our history.

Archives are records that help bring history to life.

Archivists are the people who preserve these records.

We talked to Sara Saunders, an archivist at the Jimmy Carter Library and Museum.

TAKE A TOUR

Where: Jimmy Carter Library and Museum, 441 Freedom Parkway, Atlanta.

When: Guided group tours are 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays. Self-guided tours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Mondays and noon to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Fridays.

Cost: Free for ages 16 and under to visit museum and library. \$7 adults (\$8 beginning Saturday); \$6 for seniors and students 17 and older.

Info: 404-865-7114 for field trips, 404-865-7100 for general information; www.jimmycarterlibrary.gov

Here is what we found out from Saunders:

Q: What did you study in school?

A: History.

Q: What do you do?

A: Read documents, answer questions and take requests.

Q: What's the most unusual thing in the library?



KEITH HADLEY / Staff

Sara Saunders (above) wears gloves to protect documents in her care, including a letter from actor John Wayne.

A: A letter to President Carter from John Wayne, which is pretty cool.

Q: What's the most unusual thing in your office?

A: White cotton gloves. Our hands have oils that would damage photos or older ma-

terials, so you have to wear gloves.

Q: Other than a presidential library, where could an archivist work?

A: A university or a company. Coke and IBM have archivists.